

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The invention is directed to a vertically emitting laser and a method of manufacturing such a laser having a current aperture and a semiconductor relief. The semiconductor relief and the current aperture are defined in the same processing operation, thereby causing the semiconductor relief and the current aperture to be substantially self-aligned with respect to one another. In addition, such processing results in an area ratio of the semiconductor relief and the current aperture to be substantially self-scaling with respect to processing variations.